

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 32698 01 OF 02 081852Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

IO-13 ACDA-12 MCE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 OMB-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 PRS-01 /113 W

-----004652 081959Z /42

R 081840Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1410

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 32698

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CD, FR, LY, SU

SUBJ: CHAD DEVELOPMENT

REFS: A. STATE 260708. B. SECDEF 25190Z OCT 77.

C. STATE 258635. D. NDJEMENA 3757. E. KHARTOUM 3813.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WE DISCUSSED RECENT CHAD DEVELOPMENTS WITH QUAI DEPUTY AFRICAN DIRECTOR ON NOVEMBER 4. HE INFORMED US THAT VISIT OF PRESIDENT MALLOUM HAD GONE OFF WELL LARGELY BECAUSE MALLOUM'S REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN REASONABLE. THE FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO LOOK FOR FOUR MORE DC-4/3 TYPE AIRCRAFT TO BOLSTER CHADIAN TRANSPORT CAPABILITIES, TO ASSIST IN FORMING A MOBILE UNIT OF UNDER 1000 MEN IN THE CHAD ARMY AND TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 32698 01 OF 02 081852Z

CONSIDER A PREVIOUS REQUEST TO UPGRADE THE HIGHWAY TO NDJAMENA ACROSS CAMEROON. QUAI AFRICAN DIRECTOR GEORGY RETURNED NOVEMBER 3 FROM LIBYA WHERE HE HAD DISCUSSED CHAD. THE LIBYANS HAD BEEN UNHELPFUL, SEEKING REFUGE BEHIND A WALL OF PETTY PRETEXTS WHY THEY COULD NOT IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE GOC. SOMEWHAT OFFSETTING THIS NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENT, SUDANESE MEDIATION WITH

THREE OF THE REBEL FACTIONS SHOWS SIGNS OF SUCCESS.
END SUMMARY.

2. ON NOVEMBER 4 WE DISCUSSED CHAD WITH FOREIGN
MINISTRY DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, CHRISTIAN DE LA
ROCHERE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE GAVE HIM A COPY OF
THE FRENCH LANGUAGE VERSION OF THE PAPER PASSED TO
CHAD FONMIN KAMOUGUE (REF A, WITH CAVEATS REB B).
DE LA ROCHERE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO HAVE THIS
THOROUGH RECORD OF OUR DEALINGS TO DATE WITH THE GOC
ON ARMS MATTERS SINCE FONMIN KAMOUGUE WAS SCHEDULED
TO ARRIVE IN PARIS THE NEXT DAY FOR TALKS WITH QUAI
AFRICAN DIRECTOR GEORGY ON THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY
COOPERATION, AND IT WILL BE HELPFUL TO THE FRENCH SIDE
TO BE SPEAKING IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN
TELLING THE GOC.

3. DE LA ROCHERE'S GENERAL VIEW OF CHAD DEVELOPMENTS
WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC BUT HE DISCERNED SOME BRIGHT SPOTS.
AFRICAN DIRECTOR GEORGY HAD RETURNED THE PREVIOUS
DAY FROM LIBYA WHERE HE HAD HAD TALKS ON CHAD. (THE
FRENCH PRESS HAS ASSOCIATED GEORGY'S LIBYAN TRIP WITH
EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF FRENCH HOSTAGES OF
THE POLISARIO. THIS WAS DISCUSSED BUT THE PRIMARY
FOCUS OF THE VISIT--SCHEDULED FOR SOME TIME--WAS CHAD.)
THE LIBYANS HAD NOT BEEN HELPFUL. THEY HAD DRAGGED OUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 32698 01 OF 02 081852Z

A PLETHORA OF REASONS WHY THEY WERE THE INJURED PARTY
IN THE DISPUTE WITH THE GOC--ALL ON THE ORDER OF SUCH
PETTY MATTERS AS INTERRUPTION OF THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR'S
PHONE SERVICE AND FAILURE TO INVITE HIM TO OFFICIAL
RECEPTIONS. THEY COULD NOT BE MOVED TO SERIOUS DIS-
CUSSION OF MORE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES. LIBYAN ASSISTANCE
TO CHAD REBELS WILL PRESUMABLY CONTINUE.

4. ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE, THERE NOW SEEMS A REAL
POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOC WILL BE ABLE TO REACH AN
ACCOMMODATION WITH THREE OF THE REBEL FACTIONS--THANKS
IN LARGE PART TO SUDANESE MEDIATION. IF THIS COMES
TO PASS, THE MOST IMPORTANT REBEL LEADER, GOUKOUNI,
WILL BE ISOLATED AND WILL POSE SOMEWHAT LESS OF A
THREAT TO THE REGIME, BUT DE LA ROCHERE SAW LITTLE
PROSPECT OF HIS BEING RECONCILED TO A GOVERNMENT DOM-
INATED BY SOUTHERN BLACK CHRISTIANS. AND THE GOC
CLEARLY LACKS THE CAPACITY TO EXTEND ITS WRIT TO AREAS
HE NOW CONTROLS. DE LA ROCHERE SAID THAT THIS SITUA-
TION NEED NOT BE DANGEROUS SINCE ALL GOUKOUNI WANTS
IS TO BE LEFT ALONE IN HIS TRIBAL AREA. AN IMPORTANT
ADDITIONAL FACTOR IS THAT GOUKOUNI--WHATEVER ELSE HE

MIGHT BE--IS A NATIONALIST AND THEREFORE AN IMPERFECT
INSTRUMENT IN FURTHERING LIBYAN AIMS; HE WOULD NEVER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 32698 02 OF 02 081909Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
IO-13 ACDA-12 MCE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 OMB-01
COME-00 TRSE-00 PRS-01 /113 W
-----004960 081958Z /42

R 081840Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1411
INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 32698

ACCEDE TO LIBYAN TERRITORIAL CLAIMS.

5. ON THE GOC'S MILITARY CAPABILITIES, DE LA ROCHERE
WAS SOMEWHAT LESS PESSIMISTIC THAT HE AND HIS COL-
LEAGUES HAVE BEEN IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS. FRENCH
MILITARY ADVISORS HAD BEEN EMPLOYING A NEW TRAINING
TACTIC OF SENDING TEAMS OF A DOZEN OR SO PARACHUTISTS
TO WORK WITH CHADIAN UNITS FOR PERIODS OF ABOUT TEN
DAYS DURING WHICH THEY MARCHED THEM HARD AND ALMOST
CONTINUOUSLY ABOUT THE LANDSCAPE. THE CHADIAN SOLDIERS
HAD RESPONDED WELL TO THIS TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATED
THEIR POTENTIAL TO MAKE GOOD FIGHTING MEN. THIS
APPROACH SEEMED TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE TRADI-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 32698 02 OF 02 081909Z

TIONAL PRACTICE OF SENDING SMALLER TEAMS FOR PERIODS OF SEVERAL MONTHS WITH THE UNITS. THE EXPERIENCE UNDERLINED, HOWEVER, THE BASIC WEAKNESS OF LACK OF TRAINED CADRES OF OFFICERS AND NCO'S WHICH CAN ONLY BE OVERCOME WITH TIME.

6. MALLOUM VISIT: THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT MALLOUM WHICH ENDED NOVEMBER 4 HAD INVOLVED ESSENTIALLY A DISCUSSION OF MILITARY MATTERS. IT HAD GONE QUITE WELL BECAUSE MALLOUM HAD BEEN SENSIBLE IN HIS REQUESTS. CHAD'S INTERNAL TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS, FOR INSTANCE, ARE CURRENTLY MET BY A FLEET OF ABOUT 14 DC-3S AND 4S--ALMOST ENTIRELY PILOTED AND MAINTAINED BY FRENCHMEN. THIS RELATIVELY ANTIQUATED MACHINERY SUITS CHAD'S REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS (E.G., SHORT, UNIMPROVED RUNWAYS) VERY WELL. MALLOUM HAD ASKED THAT THIS FORCE BE AUGMENTED BY FOUR SIMILAR UNITS. THE FRENCH AGREED TO TRY AND LOCATE SUITABLE AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD BE REHABILITATED TO DO THE JOB AND, BY IMPLICATION, TO RECRUIT THE ADDITIONAL CREWS TO FLY THEM.

7. THE FRENCH ALSO AGREED TO FORM A NEW MOBILE FORCE OF UNDER ONE THOUSAND MEN WITHIN THE CHAD ARMY. DE LA ROCHERE SAID THAT AT PRESENT THE MINISCULE CHAD ARMY IS SPREAD VERY THIN PROTECTING INSTALLATIONS AND POPULATION CENTERS AND DOESN'T HAVE THE MEANS OR THE WILL TO VENTURE MORE THAN A FEW HUNDRED METERS BEYOND ITS DEFENSE PERIMETERS. THE NEW UNIT--EQUIPPED AS INFANTRY--WILL PROVIDE A MOBILITY AND RESPONSE CAPABILITY CURRENTLY LACKING.

8. IN THE NON-MILITARY AREA, THE MAJOR TOPIC WAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 32698 02 OF 02 081909Z

RENEWAL OF THE REQUEST FOR FRANCE TO UNDERTAKE THE HARD-SURFACING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE LAST FEW HUNDRED KILOMETERS OF THE ROAD TO NDJAMENA THROUGH CAMEROON OVER WHICH ALMOST ALL OF CHAD'S COMMERCE PASSES. THE GOF PROMISED TO CONSIDER THIS REQUEST SYMPATHETICALLY. MALLOUM ALSO ASKED FOR LOANS TO SUPPORT THE GOC BUDGET. THIS REQUEST SIMILARLY WILL BE LOOKED AT FAVORABLY SINCE, AS POOR AS CHAD IS, IT MANAGES ITS MEAGER FINANCES WELL AND IS CONSIDERED A GOOD RISK.

9. THIRD COUNTRY ARMS ASSISTANCE: IN DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THIRD COUNTRY ARMS TRANSFERS TO CHAD, DE LA ROCHERE SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH OUR CONCLUSION THAT IRAN IS THE BEST IMMEDIATE PROSPECT AS AN ARMS SOURCE. SAUDI ARABIA, THOUGH PERHAPS SYMPATHETIC, WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO GIVE ARMS TO A CHADIAN GOVERNMENT DOMINATED BY CHRISTIANS WHICH IS IN CONFLICT WITH MOSLEM REBELS SUPPORTED BY A FELLOW MUSLIM STATE. NOTING THAT WE HAD LISTED SUDAN AS A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF ARMS, HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A MISTAKE TO APPROACH THE SUDAN ON THIS MATTER AS THE SUDAN'S VALUE AS A MEDIATOR WITH THE REBELS IS GREATER THAN THAT OF ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE. AS TO WHETHER THE GOF WOULD BE WILLING TO BACK UP OUR APPROACHES TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DE LA ROCHERE SAID HE THOUGHT THE RESPONSE WOULD BE POSITIVE IN THE CASE OF IRAN--THE MOST LIKELY SOURCE. HE UNDERTOOK TO LET US KNOW. HARTMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AGREEMENTS, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS32698
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770412-0763
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771184/aaaactmw.tel
Line Count: 243
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4439461f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 260708, 77 STATE 258635
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 674583
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHAD DEVELOPMENT
TAGS: MARR, CD, FR, LY, SU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4439461f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009